

April 28, 2021

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Chairwoman
House Labor, Health and Human
Services, Education, and Related
Agencies Subcommittee
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Tom Cole
Ranking Member
House Labor, Health and Human
Services, Education, and Related
Agencies Subcommittee
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairwoman DeLauro and Ranking Member Cole:

As you prepare the Fiscal Year 2022 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies appropriations bill, we write to express our support for a continued funding level of \$5 million for the National Neurological Conditions Surveillance System (NNCSS).

The NNCSS was authorized by the 21st Century Cures Act, which was signed into law in December 2016 (Public Law 114-255) and is administered by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). This program has established a coordinated system to collect and analyze data on neurological conditions. The NNCSS has initially focused their data collection on Multiple Sclerosis (MS) and Parkinson's Disease (PD).

An estimated one in six Americans have a neurological condition while almost 1 million Americans are diagnosed with MS and approximately 600,000 Americans are diagnosed with PD. The agency has used MS and PD to successfully set up demonstrations of the capacity of NNCSS and has transitioned from phase I of the project into phase II, which consists of building up the surveillance network to track neurological conditions. In addition, the NNCSS annually meets with stakeholders with over 50 participants from the neurological disease community to provide feedback on their progress and further implementation.

Further appropriations will permit NNCSS to build upon their progress and expand to other neurological conditions and diseases. The data collected through this program will create a basis for scrutinizing and understanding aspects of these conditions that are currently misunderstood such as the role of gender in these conditions, geography and demographics of diagnoses, and changes in health care practices among patients. The data will also allow our health care system to gain a more in-depth look at treating these conditions. Additionally, as a part of the CDC, the NNCSS has helped to lead our nation's fight in the response against COVID-19. Ensuring their continued funding is essential to the success of the NNCSS and its expansion to other conditions.

We thank the Subcommittee for its past support and understand that it has many competing priorities to consider this fiscal year. However, continued investment in the NNCSS will help to continue and expand this research while benefitting the millions of Americans who suffer from a neurological condition. We ask that you continue your support of a \$5 million funding level for the NNCSS.

Sincerely,



Albio Sires
Member of Congress

/s/
Donald M. Payne, Jr.
Member of Congress

/s/
Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress

/s/
John Yarmuth
Member of Congress

/s/
Al Green
Member of Congress

/s/
William R. Keating
Member of Congress

/s/
Antonio Delgado
Member of Congress

/s/
Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress